

VANCE'S LETTER-BOOK.

Messenger Bureau, Park Hotel,
Raleigh, N. C., July 31, 1897.
(Special Correspondence.)

The following is a continuation of extracts from the war letter book of Governor Vance for 1863-4.

December 29 Vance wrote the secretary of war that provisions were very scarce in the state and urged that the government impress as small quantities as possible; that the impressing agents acted, in many cases, in such a way as to cause great dissatisfaction among the people, and assumed to judge of the quantity the citizen needed for the use of his family.

In a letter to Judge Robert Ould, commissioner of exchange, the governor said the federal troops on the Chowan river were refusing to treat Colonel Hinton's confederates as prisoners of war; that they had murdered several, and also that they had arrested two respectable women, whom they kept handcuffed as hostages for negro soldiers, and declared their intention to hang them in case the negro troops included in the cartel of exchange, so as "to repress, if possible, this cowardly and damnable disposition to put women in irons as hostages." He said that a General Wild was at the bottom of this business.

Vance had a sharp tilt with the confederate government because the latter licensed whiskey distilleries, which the state law forbade, because of the consumption of corn, so sorely needed for food. The whiskey was ostensibly made for the medical department.

William Collier, of the English firm of Collier & Co., writing from Wilmington, confirms all the facts made by his agent, Theodore Andrea, on his visit to Vance, at Raleigh, as to the purchase of an interest in steamers by the state. December 28 Andrea said 1,500 bales of cotton would be needed for shipment in January from Wilmington. He added: "There is no probability that any cotton will be claimed from you on bonds issued to Collier & Co., before the end of the war, particularly if the government continues to put restrictions on the exporting trade."

George N. Saunders, writing from London to Vance, attacked Duncan K. MacRae and asserted that the latter had given a Mr. Weston \$15,000 "to carry out his nefarious plans, constituting him contractor, agent and inspector for the state;" that the rosin bonds were placed at the rate of \$1.50 a barrel and that the cotton, which was only 70 cents, was sold at \$1.50, "the transaction, when fully brought to light, will exceed in reckless villainy anything in this corrupt age."

January 4, 1864, Vance wrote the secretary of war that he was indignant because the government would not allow him to haul his own cotton or pay him what it owed, the steamers would be compelled to stop or take cotton for speculators; that the confederacy had plenty of cotton and must send him 1,800 bales at Wilmington; that he had great quantities of stores, particularly bacon, at Nassau, and if not got in during the winter of 1863-4 it would not get in at all.

Colonel Peter Mallett, commanding the conscripts, wrote December 24: "I beg leave to invite your attention to the course now being pursued by The Daily Progress, editorially, and the action of its agents in a manner calculated to incite the people to resistance, and I would respectfully request that unless immediate and decisive measures are taken to suppress this increasing evil, it may result in civil war and prove the ruin of our cause. Your excellency is respectfully referred to the issue of December 22 and that of today."

John White wrote from Manchester, England, that he had shipped 30,000 pairs of cotton and wool cards and five machines at \$100 each for making them, with enough twine to keep them going for a year. He had, up to October 31, sold \$500,000 of cotton bonds. The first lot of that cotton had been sold and brought the highest price ever obtained in England for like quality—50 to 60 cents.

I. A. Weston, as Col. MacRae's representative, wrote that he had shipped from London \$26,000 worth of shoes, made by Sichel & Co. He said this firm was not treating the state fairly. He also shipped 10,000 yards of cloth, 2,000 pairs blankets, together with caps.

January 5, 1864, the governor wrote Andrea expressing regret that the latter had sent the steamer Hausa to Nassau instead of Bermuda, as the state had no freight at Nassau. "I bought an interest in the Hausa only to get my cargoes brought in from Bermuda. I would not risk one dollar in any vessel to bring in freight for other parties. I telegraphed you to take the state's coal, ninety tons, and send her to Bermuda. You took forty tons and sent her to Nassau. This will not do. If I can't have the inward cargo I shall have to decline proceeding with Mr. Collier and further. The Don will probably come in without sufficient coal and have the same excuse for returning to Nassau. It seems we misunderstand each other about the cotton. I told you I would deliver 2,000 bales at Wilmington out of my stores at Raleigh if you would furnish me with a guarantee that Mr. Collier would not claim any damage or indemnity if, in consequence of this loan, I failed to comply with the terms of the bonds he holds on this state to deliver this amount promptly after peace." January 4th the Don arrived. Vance wrote on the 6th that he was glad to hear of her arrival, that he considered her as partly his vessel and wanted her loaded for Bermuda at once. He wrote on the same day to Prior, Low & Co. that he expected the Advance on the 10th; that coal was short, owing to an accident at the mine (the Egypt mine). Andrea wanted Vance to have a mine engine sent over from England for this mine, but Vance said it was impracticable. Vance suggested that the Advance be lightened by cutting away

her upper works. He wanted a lot of cattle stored in southwest Georgia, as that region seemed to him safer and more accessible. Secretary of War Seddon wrote January 7th that he would turn over cotton in Georgia in settlement of the government's debt. He declared he wanted 500 bales delivered at once some where in North Carolina.

Under date of January 7th a sharp letter was written the secretary of war: "I have now at Bermuda and on the way there, eight or ten cargoes of supplies of the very first importance to the army and the people, consisting chiefly of some 40,000 blankets, 40,000 pairs of shoes, large quantities of army cloth, leather, 112,000 pairs of cotton cards, machinery and findings to refit twenty-six of our principal cotton and wool factories, dye stuffs, lubricating oils, etc. I have also made large purchases of bacon, kerosene, and other necessities. I am now at the point of departure, at which time I anticipate the closing of the port of Wilmington (if not sooner) and that the risk was increasing daily. I sold one-half of the state's steamer, Advance, and purchased of Collier & Co. one-fourth interest in four steamers, the Hausa, the Don, and two new buildings. The terms of sale given the state is one-fourth the outward cargo and the whole inward cargo—nothing, whatever, being carried for speculation. Now the confederacy demand one-third of the capacity of each steamer. I object to this. It is remarkable to me that the entire importing operations of this state, which have been so successful and so beneficial to the cause, seem to have met with little else than downright opposition from the confederacy. In its very inception Mr. Mason, our commissioner in England, laid the strong hand on my agents and positively forbade them from putting a bond on the market for five months after they landed in England. Then came vexatious and irritating quarantine delays at Wilmington (enforced by the military, not the civil authorities) though our foreign depot was at great cost, made at Bermuda and not at Nassau. Then occurred, and denial of facilities to get it from the mines, etc. A great deal of this is attributable to want of discretion on the part of subordinate officers, as well as the want of foresight displayed in the opposing of every individual interest of this country by army regulations. If the regulations are enforced as to the steamers, I shall countermand their sailing. I had the Hausa to bring in from Nassau confederate bacon, so anxious am I that these steamers shall be employed for the public good."

January 7th Vance wrote Andrea: "There are about 1,000 prisoners of war in this state in northern prisons, who are suffering for clothing. Commissioner Ould informs me that money can be sent them to purchase clothing, and for this purpose I desire a bill of exchange on London. My own check on Mr. Collier (for cotton sales) might not be received. Could you not give me a check on your house, which is doubtless well known in New York, and take my check on Mr. Collier. The amount I desire is \$6,000, in two bills of \$3,000 each."

The secretary of war wrote Vance thanking him for the cotton kindly loaned, saying it was for the use of the ordnance department; that he would return at Wilmington, as quick as he could, or could deliver all at once at Augusta, where the ordnance department had a lot stored.

It is stated that some of the best of the cloth out of which uniforms were to be made was from Peter Tart & Co., of Limerick, Ireland.

Archibald McPhail, formerly a private in the Sixty-third North Carolina (cavalry), was regularly discharged on habeas corpus by Judge Heath, because he had furnished a substitute, yet he was arrested by Captain Harris, his commanding officer, and put back into service with the flat of the judge in his pocket. Vance wrote the secretary of war, demanding McPhail's immediate discharge.

Andrea wrote that the reason the Hausa went to Nassau instead of Bermuda was that there was no coal at Bermuda.

January 10th this letter was written ex-Governor D. L. Swain: "Mr. Graham has declined to accept the appointment of senator for Mr. Davis' unexpired term. I desire very much that you should accept it. In the first place, I believe that above all men in the state your age, position and character would enable you to modify and soften the present violent and desperate temper of congress, and that you could really be of service to the state. In the next place, it would afford me infinite satisfaction for you to receive this mark of confidence (the greatest it may ever be in my power to bestow) at my hands."

Swain replied on the 12th: "I regret exceedingly to find myself compelled at this momentous crisis of your public affairs to decline the acceptance of the high public trust, of the proper discharge of which you think me competent and propose in such flattering terms. The health of my family will not admit of my leaving home immediately, and the session of congress is too near its close and occupied with too important subjects to admit of any delay."

January 14th Vance wrote Edwin G. Reade, at Roxboro: "I enclose you a commission as senator from North Carolina for the remainder of the unexpired term of Hon. Geo. Davis. I trust you will accept it and proceed at once to Richmond. The term is short, but yet I regard it of importance that we should be represented at such a crisis as this, and perhaps one calm voice amid the reckless and desperate legislation of the day might be heard, warning and expostulating."

Attorney General Sion H. Rogers gave an opinion that the confederate government could not tax the property under the management of the state literary board or the state's interest in the Raleigh and Gaston railway.

January 13th Vance wrote General Whiting, at Wilmington: "I have a lot of negroes started to you from Ireland county who are detained at Salisbury by the commandant of that post to put up ice and bale hay. Please order them on to Wilmington and punish the officer for stopping them."

The confederate chief medical officer

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North Carolina in whatever prison confined. I presume at the quoted rates of exchange the bills will produce nearly \$9,000. In venturing to ask you to take so much trouble upon your hands I feel sure that the suggestion of humanity and the common courtesy existing between honest enemies will be a sufficient apology. I can but hope you will accept the trouble and that you will not hesitate to allow me an opportunity of reciprocating your kindness, should it be possible for me to do so." The letter was sent through Judge Ould.

January 13th Judge Reade accepted the appointment as senator, saying: "I am preparing for the arduous duties of the judgeship upon which I enter in March. The session of congress is nearly closed, with measures before it involving the very life of the country, which have been considered in secret session."

January 22d, the attorney general was directed to proceed against certain employees of the confederacy who were distilling whisky at Fallsbury from corn.

The trouble as to the steamers Don and Hausa was obviated by the purchase by the confederacy of one-fourth interest in each.

Vance wrote President Davis December 31, 1863, that the people of this state desired an attempt made for negotiations for peace. January 8th Davis replied. January 27th Vance wrote him that the North Carolina congressional delegation had applied to him for the publication of the Davis letter. He added: "They state that you did not object to the proposition."

Confederate Quartermaster General A. J. Lawton, January 31st, begged Vance to let him have woolen clothing, saying that North Carolina had a supply partly home made, partly imported, beyond need for some time to come; that this state was devoting all its resources to the service of its troops and there were also unusual facilities for importing. He added that no state was so well supplied as North Carolina.

The congressional delegation which urged the publication of the Davis letter wrote Vance on the 25th, they being E. G. Reade, Thomas S. Ashe, A. H. Warrington, B. S. Gaither, J. R. McLean, A. T. Davidson, W. N. H. Smith, R. R. Bridges, Theodore D. McDowell, and O. R. Kenan.

February 1st Vance wrote Captain Guthrie and Purser Dr. T. J. Boykin of the steamer Advance to go to Bermuda and fetch freight, and added: "In consequence of the great abuse of this vessel by the carrying of private freight it becomes necessary to order that nothing shall go aboard without my consent in writing or that of the consignee and part owners, Power, Lowe & Co. I need hardly warn you, captain, of the great importance of not despoiling of the ship too hastily. The premature and culpable beaching of the Don and Vesta furnish a useful warning of the timidity of pilots and commanders who merely serve for money."

February 1st Special Agent John White returned from England and Vance notified Collier & Co. that he sent Joseph H. Flanner in his stead. Flanner left that day and took the letter. All business details were left to Collier & Co., Flanner's instructions being confined to the mere looking after and superintendence of the state's interests.

On the same date Vance wrote Alex. Collier at London acknowledging "the receipt of a very handsome dispatch box per steamer Vesta, a present from you. Your very kind note, enclosing a check for \$1,000, I have just received. For the benefit of the poor of North Carolina was also received. In the name of the poor women and children who will be the recipient of your bounty I return my warmest acknowledgments. It will relieve the patriotic sufferings of many who will, I trust, in days to come of returning peace and prosperity learn to bless the munificence of the stranger who remembered them in the hour of adversity and distress."

February 8th Vance ordered of Collier & Co. 100,000 pairs of cotton cards.

Eli Swanner, a political prisoner, was first in Salisbury prison, then at Richmond. Vance demanded that he be sent to Raleigh. The secretary of war said Swanner avows his allegiance to the United States and demanded to be sent north, saying he would stay there, but that his real purpose was to return to the part of North Carolina occupied by the federal troops and arouse the vengeance of the latter towards Swanner's confederate neighbors. The legislature demanded of the president that Swanner be sent here. February 23d he was sent.

Andrea twice sent the Hausa to Nassau instead of to Bermuda, and July 8th Vance wrote Collier & Co. Andrea must be removed, and that if there was more trouble the state would seize the Hausa.

This letter from General Johnston is dated February 3d: "I have your letter and that of Colonel Palmer. I regret very much the capture of an officer so valuable as General Vance. Col-

wrote that there was reason for belief that a large quantity of whisky made in North Carolina by contractors had been sold to private parties, which should have been delivered to the government. He said the confederacy owned one distillery in North Carolina. This was at Salisbury, and this one was necessary and should not be interfered with."

January 2d, the resignation as senator of Hon. George Davis was dated, he having been appointed attorney general of the confederate states.

January 15th Judge Ould wrote that the state troops on the Chowan river were within the provisions of the cartel of exchange, and that if they were cruelly treated upon capture Vance could retaliate upon any federal he captured.

January 20th Governor Vance sent Governor Horatio Seymour, of New York \$8,000 of exchange on Collier & Co. It was sent by "flag of truce." He said: "I desire you will have this expended in the purchase of the most necessary clothing for the prisoners of war from one Palmer has reported it, with the circumstances, as well as the orders given to Colonels Thomas and Henry. He had been directed to have the conduct of these officers investigated by court martial."

February 5th in a letter to President Davis Vance deplored the fact that a bill was certainly expected to pass congress regarding the writ of habeas corpus throughout the confederacy, and that certain arrests would immediately be made in North Carolina. The letter is a model of vigorous language and as a defense of this state and its people. (The pith of this letter has been published.)

Here is the summary of the cargo for the state on a blockade runner, the Advance: 19 cases boots, 55 bales cloth, 35 cases military caps, 471 iron rails, sheet iron, screws, anvils, horse shoes, axes, sledge hammers, tacks, solder, forges, gimblets, tin plate, tin ingots.

February 15th in a letter to Alex. Collier, Vance said: "Our troops are better clothed and equipped than at any time since the beginning of the war and nearly two-thirds of our entire army have already voluntarily re-enlisted for the war, disdaining to be conscripted. The statements you see in Yankee newspapers as to disaffection in North Carolina are entitled to little weight. Our people are very fearful of destruction of their civil rights and liberties, and are struggling to preserve them. Our enemies will take this for disaffection."

February 15th W. A. Graham was commissioned confederate states senator for six years from February 15th.

E. G. Reade was on the same day commissioned a judge of the superior court.

Captain Guthrie of the Advance was dissatisfied with his pay. Vance said if he declined to take it to send the vessel out with Wylie as captain. "I will not give Morse (the pilot) more, than he was promised. We have already kept him from being forced to generalize Whiting's terms, and to be not satisfied I propose letting him try the conscript camp at \$11 per month. I hope you will not pander to his unpatriotic greed." Vance said Guthrie had smuggled cotton aboard the Advance in excess of that shown on the manifest and this had to be stopped. "He was sailing out on each trip the officers and crew be allowed to take out 24 bales. Guthrie got the pay of a navy captain and \$1,000 in gold each trip."

February 27th Colonel C. F. M. Garnett, commissioner of railways, served notice on President R. A. Cowan of the imprisonment of ten miles of the iron of his road, to be applied to the repair of the Wilmington and Manchester road. Vance protested, saying every pound of the iron was mortgaged to the state.

February 29th Vance went to Wilkes county and writes that he learned the 56th regiment, North Carolina Infantry, had stolen the property and effects of many inoffensive citizens. He wrote the secretary of war that compensation should be made.

Colonel Peter Macgett notified the governor February 27th that he was directed to enforce the conscript law vigorously and pay no attention to the writ of habeas corpus, and in answer to Vance protested, saying every pound of the person was detained for attempt to avoid military service.

March 5, W. H. Peters, agent of the confederate states navy department, notified Vance that he claimed, instead of one-third, one-half the carrying capacity of the steamer Hausa on her next outward trip.

February 17, J. J. Guthrie gives notice of a safe trip of the Advance from Bermuda; that at the latter place the cotton discharged from the fore-hold, belonging to Power, Low & Co., caught fire on the wharf and was ruined. Yet that firm tried to make the state share half of the loss. Guthrie said this was unfair.

February 23, President Davis wrote a letter of great length (in reply to Vance's of February 9, already published), in which he said: "I feel no distrust whatever of the noble people of North Carolina, nor do I consider your efforts to conciliate them injudicious. I entertain respect and admiration for the people of North Carolina and her gallant sons who

have on the battle fields of this war won for her so glorious a name. But I do suspect a knot of traitors who have been conspiring at home, while the mass of the state's true sons were at their posts of duty in the army." March 16, General Whiting was notified that no more slaves could be furnished to work on the forts after April 1. He said Wilmington was a "confederate post," and all the labor of defending it should not fall upon North Carolina. He added "we have sent many slaves to Petersburg on this principle."

March 9, Vance wrote President Davis a spicy letter, in which he said that while two-thirds of the people of North Carolina were opposed to secession until Lincoln's proclamation, yet out of twenty-five or thirty generals appointed from North Carolina, only three, Gatling, Baker and Robert B. Vance, were anti-secessionists. He thought it "strange that God had endowed the other one-third of the people with all the military talent." Branch, Clingman, Scales, Ransom and Gordon, all politicians, are appointed at once what representative of the old unionists was thought fit to receive similar favors? A junior officer was put over Colonel McRae, of the Fifth; Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson over Colonel Garrett; Colonel Scales over McElroy, who had fought the glorious Sixteenth from 1,300 down to 150 men, was disgraced by wounds and who was recommended by General Pender."

Alex. Collier, writing from Liverpool, February 13, said "the yankees give notice that they will imprison, until the end of the war, the officers and crew of any blockade runner captured. This will not be submitted to even by our somewhat imbecile (English) government. It will be our endeavor to retain the purely British character of our vessels. I am going to give you faster steamers."

March 18, Whiting wrote that if he could not get slave labor to work on Fort Fisher, N. C., from Virginia or the war department, he would have to impress it."

April 17, a telegram to General Hoke at Kinston, said the order from his prevoist marshal for the arrest of James M. Everette, of Goldsboro, was unaccompanied by any authority; that such arrests could be made only by order of the president. "I shall resist your order unless satisfied of its legality." General Bragg, at Goldsboro, was telegraphed: "Please telegraph General Hoke how he should proceed if you desire to avoid trouble."

April 5, Vance wrote President Davis that the steamer Advance was detained at Wilmington, and under a claim that the new "regulations" of the president should be imposed upon her. He added: "This ship was purchased in Europe by the state of North Carolina, and entered Wilmington in June, 1863. She carried on a successful commerce for the state, importing supplies for our troops until, in February, 1864, when one-half of her was sold to Davis & Fitzhugh. These purchasers had a contract for importing supplies for the confederate government, and the sale of them was encouraged by the letter of the secretary of war to me, as favorable to the wants and interests of the confederacy. The state has retained and enjoyed the control and management of the whole ship." Vance protested earnestly against the ship's being made subject to the regulations, which he characterized as "liberal, not to say stupid and destructive."

In a letter to Collier, at Liverpool, Vance says: "We hope to wind up the war with the year 1864."

Under date of March 31 appears a very long letter from President Davis regarding the complaints of Vance that North Carolina officers did not get their deserts when commissions as generals were issued. Vance had spoken plainly, but politely, and in a letter dated March 9 had said: "I trust, I am incapable of needlessly and intemperately insulting the chief magistrate of the confederate states, and have ever endeavored, in making unpleasant statements to you, to avoid discourtesy, while expressing myself with candor. If I have made a different impression in my last or in any former letter, I now assure you, once for all, that it has resulted from my misfortune in the employment of terms and not from any want of respect due you personally or officially." Yet Davis became angry, for in his reply he says: "There are other passages in your letter in which you have so far infringed the proprieties of official intercourse as to preclude the possibility of reply. In order that I may not again be subjected to the necessity of making so unpleasant a remark I must be that correspondence so unprofitable in its character, and which was not initiated by me, may end here, and that your future communications be restricted to such matters as may require official action."

Excursion Rates to Northern Points
Washington, August 3. The Southern Railway Passenger Association, of which the Southern railway is a member, has announced that on August 12th, 13th and 14th, tickets will be sold from points within the territory of their association to Richmond, Norfolk and Washington at one fare for the round trip; tickets good for fifteen days.

Tutt's Pills
Cure All Liver Ills.
A CLEAR HEAD;
good digestion; sound sleep; a fine appetite and a ripe old age are some of the results of the use of Tutt's Liver Pills. A single dose will convince you of their wonderful effects and virtue.

A Known Fact.
An absolute cure for sick headache, dyspepsia, malaria, sour stomach, dizziness, constipation bilious fever, piles, torpid liver and all kindred diseases.

Tutt's Liver Pills
February 23, President Davis wrote a letter of great length (in reply to Vance's of February 9, already published), in which he said: "I feel no distrust whatever of the noble people of North Carolina, nor do I consider your efforts to conciliate them injudicious. I entertain respect and admiration for the people of North Carolina and her gallant sons who

The Right Remedy

The disastrous effects of potash and mercury, which the doctors always prescribe for Contagious Blood Poison, should convince anyone that these are not the proper remedies for this horrible disease. Instead of forcing the poison from the system, and getting rid of it forever, potash and mercury only bottle it up, and by driving in the outward appearance of the disease, induce the patient to think he is being cured. But he sees his mistake before long, when his joints become stiff and his bones ache—often his hair will fall out by the handful and if he follows the doctor's advice and continues to take his medicine, his finger nails will drop off.

There is a cure for this destructive disease, though no doctor has ever yet cured it. Of course they may pronounce a patient cured, but the disease has never failed to return, with increased severity. S.S.S. (Swift's Specific) is a permanent cure, and is the only remedy free from harmful ingredients. It is the only blood remedy which is guaranteed purely vegetable, and for twenty years its proprietors have offered one thousand dollars reward for proof that it contains a particle of potash, mercury or other mineral ingredient.

Mr. W. R. Newman, a well-known young man residing at Staunton, Va., tried various other treat-ments, but found no relief until he took S.S.S. He writes:

"I was afflicted with blood poison and the best doctors did me no good, though I took their treatment faithfully. In fact I seemed to get worse all the while. I took almost every so-called blood remedy, but they did not seem to reach the disease and had no effect whatever. I was disheartened for it seemed that I would never be cured. At the advice of a friend I then took S.S.S. and began to improve. I continued the medicine and it cured me completely, building up my health and increasing my appetite. Although this was ten years ago, I have never yet had a sign of the disease to return."

Mr. E. L. Hite, also of Staunton, had the same disease, and his experience was similar to the above. He says:

"S. S. S. is certainly far ahead of all other blood remedies, for I have never been troubled with the disease since. I have recommended S. S. S. to others similarly afflicted, and have never known it to fail."

S. S. S. is the right remedy for Contagious Blood Poison, because it goes direct to the seat of the disease and forces it from the system. It will cure any case of Cancer, Scrofula, Rheumatism, Eczema, Catarrh or other blood disease of the most obstinate nature. Remember it is guaranteed

Purely Vegetable

and is the only blood remedy containing no mercury, potash or other mineral. Valuable books on the disease and its treatment will be mailed free to all who address The Swift Specific Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

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